



Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

December 7, 2009

Mayor's Message

Dear API
Community,

The District is working diligently to provide services for you and your family. My administration is excited about our new initiatives, particularly those within the Asian and Pacific Islander community.



In 2010, we will be working effortlessly to ensure that all District API residents are counted in the 2010 Census. We understand that this information is vital to providing more resources to best serve the API community. With the help of OAPIA and others, we hope that everyone will participate to ensure a full and accurate count.

These are only a few of the steps that my administration is taking to meet your needs. It is definitely a great start to the New Year. We hope that you will have an enjoyable, safe, and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor, District of Columbia

Director's Message

Dear API
Community and
Friends,

It has been said that "time is money." At OAPIA, we realize that we must make our events and activities valuable enough that even business owners are willing to join us.



That's one of the reasons I am pleased to share this month's OAPIA newsletter with you. It has a special feature on the Business Conference that we held in November. We had numerous business owners share valuable information with individual leaders and community members on how to do business in D.C.

This month's newsletter will also update you on our projects, and includes important information about our Census initiative and our upcoming Toy Drive.

As always, we thank you for your continued support. We sincerely hope this newsletter gives you an inside glimpse of OAPIA's activities with the community and District Agencies here to better serve you.

Warm regards,

Soohyun Koo, Executive Director
Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific
Islander Affairs

Inside This Issue

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Messages |
| 2 | Activities |
| 5 | Holiday Greetings |
| 6 | Staff Directory |
| 6 | Upcoming Events |

OAPIA Hosts Small Business Conference

On November 13, 2009, the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) hosted a Small Business Conference for over 30 local entrepreneurs and small business owners.

The goals of the Small Business Conference are to give small businesses the tools they need to start a business in the District and to help existing small businesses expand and develop. This year, the Small Business Conference entitled "Capitalizing in the Nation's Capital" focused on highlighting new and existing government opportunities for businesses in the District. Discussion topics included:

The advantages of investing in the District;
Available government programs for DC business owners;
How to become a Certified Business Enterprise; and
How to win local and federal government contracts.

At the conference, successful business owners from the Asian Pacific Islander community shared their success stories and business tips. The Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs provided simultaneous translation services in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Hindi languages to attendees with limited English proficiency.

"We are happy that business owners and individuals were able to share their ideas and experiences with each other. We will continue to work with business owners and the API community to ensure that they receive proper resources," said Soohyun Koo, Director of OAPIA.

The Small Business Conference also featured speakers from the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development, the DC Office of Contract and Procurement, and the Washington DC Economic Partnership.



Gary Cha, business owner, shares useful business tips to everyone.



Soohyun "Julie" Koo, makes opening remarks.

OAPIA Releases 2009-2010 Annual Scholarship Guidebook

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) prepared its Annual Scholarship Booklet, a reference guide on scholarships that provides a listing of over 50 scholarships targeted toward Asian and Pacific Islander (API) students. OAPIA hopes this reference guide helps young people identify scholarship opportunities as they decide to pursue institutions of higher education.

"OAPIA will continue to update this booklet and distribute it on a yearly basis. We hope it is a useful tool for you and youth," said Soohyun Koo, Director of OAPIA.

For the most recent copy of the Scholarship Book, please visit the Resource Library at the OAPIA website: www.apia.dc.gov

Case Assistance Clinics

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) will be extending its services to the API community with the initiation of Case Assistance Clinics. OAPIA will assist the District's Asian and Pacific Islander (API) individuals, families, and small business owners who have trouble navigating DC government services due to language barriers.

"Our Case Assistance Clinics provides a means to reach out to the community on a local level, Director Koo said. "It is a powerful tool used to foster communication and understanding in the community."

The clinics will be held each Wednesday at OAPIA, and some Thursdays at locations easily accessible to the API community. Although scheduling an appointment is not required, it is highly recommended to minimize a waiting period. In addition to providing Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean and Vietnamese interpretation, accommodations for people with disabilities will also be available upon request. Please visit www.apia.dc.gov for full details.

December 3,
January 7,
February 4, 1-3pm
Chinatown Service Center
500 I (Eye) Street, NW

December 10,
January 14,
February 11, 1-3pm
Washington Cash & Carry
1270 4th Street, NE,
Second Floor

December 17,
January 21,
February 18, 1-3pm
Columbia Heights
Recreation Center
1480 Girard Street, NW

OAPIA Launches 2010 Census Effort with Community Education Trainings

On October 22 and November 16, The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau conducted trainings on upcoming 2010 Census. To reach out to community members, these trainings were geared toward local and national organizations interested in working with the D.C.'s API population. About 20 Asian community leaders were informed and educated on the 2010 Census process and received materials to bring back to their organizations.

"We are taking an early start in educating the community about the 2010 Census. We want to make sure that all API's in the District will get counted," said Soohyun Koo, OAPIA Director.

OAPIA also distributed information packets at their Bi-monthly Community Meeting. They will continue to engage other groups of advocates for the Asian community.

OAPIA will continue its efforts to a full, accurate count to help ensure that all Asian and Pacific Islanders are counted in the District of Columbia through community education, outreach, and support.

OAPIA Completes Toolkit for DC Government Agencies and Local Government

OAPIA developed a 94-page toolkit titled “Reach Out: Connecting with Asian and Pacific Islanders” to support DC Agency’s and local government Agencies efforts to effectively serve the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) population in the District of Columbia.

The toolkit covers the areas of data collection, outreach, cultural competency, and bilingual hiring by providing resources and effective tips. It also includes a step-by-step process on effective engagement in the API community, by providing Agencies with tools to build better government-community partnerships.

“This is a very exciting time for our office, and we hope that Agencies will combine these tools with their strategies to better serve the API community,” said Soohyun Koo, OAPIA Director. The toolkit is available online on the OAPIA website, and it will be delivered to DC government Agencies.

Teen Town Hall Meeting

In previous months, Vietnamese American Community Service Center (VACSC) approached OAPIA about concerns in the Vietnamese community with teen pregnancy. In response, OAPIA organized a Teen Town Hall Meeting for the VACSC. OAPIA worked with the DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, and representatives facilitated and invited guest speakers for the event. 20 teenagers voiced their top concerns in their community: 1. Violence and crimes; 2. Drugs; and 3. pregnancy. It provided an opportunity for the students to brainstorm concerns in their neighborhood, and think about ways to resolve them. Each student also received fact sheets on the “Rights of being a Minor in Health Care.”

OAPIA Proudly Accepts the Momentum Award for Downtown Detail

We are honored to be the recipient of the 2009 Downtown BID Momentum Award for Downtown Detail. It was given to our office because we “undertook a major renovation to restore the iconic Chinatown Gateway Arch, also called the Friendship Arch, in an effort to boost Chinatown's image and attract more visitors to Downtown.”

On December 3rd, Soohyun “Julie” Koo, OAPIA Director accepted the award on behalf of OAPIA.

“We are honored to receive this award, and would like to thank the API community for their continued support in this project, in addition to the many other projects from our office. Thank you for continuing to be engaged in the development of Chinatown to make it vibrant and beautiful,” replied Soohyun Koo.

OAPIA will continue to work with members and leaders of the community, DC government agencies and local government to ensure that Chinatown retains its vibrancy and culture.



Soohyun “Julie” Koo, OAPIA Director, accepts the award on behalf of OAPIA.

OAPIA Announces the “Share a Smile; Give a Toy” Toy Drive

The Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) is proud to announce its annual “Share a Smile; Give a Toy” drive for underprivileged children in the District of Columbia.

Global Children’s Foundation and McDonalds generously donated to make this event a success. Toys will be distributed to children up to 15 years old at OAPIA’s office located at *441 4th Street, NW Suite 721 North Washington, DC 20001*. If you or your organization would like to receive toys, please register your youth by calling (202) 727-3120 or by emailing Ngoc Trinh at ngoc.trinh@dc.gov by Monday, December 14. Toys will be limited to pre-registered youth and will be given out on a first come first serve basis.

“Our office is excited to celebrate the holidays with the community by giving back to its children,” said OAPIA’s Director Soohyun Julie Koo. “Last year, with generous donations from community members and sponsors, OAPIA gave away over 200 toys to community members. This year, we hope to reach even more children with your help.” OAPIA will hold a “Distributing Smiles” event to distribute toys to community members and community-based

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from OAPIA

We would like to wish everyone a healthy, prosperous, safe, and joyous holiday season and New Year. We are excited about our new initiatives and the services we can provide to meet your needs. We also like to say thank you for your continued support of OAPIA. Your help is crucial in our work and supporting the District’s API community. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.



Staff Directory

Soohyun “Julie” Koo, *Executive Director*
soohyun.koo@dc.gov

Mable Kong, *Staff Assistant*
mable.kong@dc.gov
Subject Matter: Employment

Elliot Lee, *Community Outreach Specialist*
elliott.lee@dc.gov
Subject Matter: Housing

Dory Peters, *Special Assistant*
dory.peters@dc.gov
Subject Matter: Economic Development

Neel Saxena, *Program Coordinator*
neel.saxena@dc.gov
Subject Matter: Education

Ngoc Trinh, *Community Outreach Coordinator*
ngoc.trinh@dc.gov
Subject Matter: Safety

Upcoming Events

“Share a Smile; Give a Toy” Toy Distribution Event	December 18, 4-6pm
Monthly Commission Meeting	December 18, 6:30-8pm
Holiday	December 25
Case Assistance Clinics	Ongoing
New Years Holiday	January 1
Bimonthly Community Meeting	January 26, 1-3pm

Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
441 4th Street, NW Suite 721 North
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202.727.3120
Fax: 202.727.9255
www.apia.dc.gov

DECEMBER 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						